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F.B.I. Holds Another Spy Suspect, Employee of House Transcribers

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 — An employee of a company that transcribes secret sessions in the House of Representatives has been charged with spying for the Soviet Union after offering to sell an undercover agent secret documents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

The bureau said the suspect, Randy Miles Jeffries, a 26-year old Washington resident, had told the undercover agent he had already delivered portions of documents to the Russians, including one that was classified as top secret. Michael Giglia, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified today at a hearing in Superior Court that Mr. Jeffries had asked for $5,000 for the complete set of three documents.

Mr. Jeffries was arrested at a Holiday Inn at 9:11 P.M. Friday, the F.B.I. said in a statement issued early today. After today's hearing, a Superior Court judge today ordered him held without bail pending a hearing Monday morning in Federal District Court. He was the 11th American arrested on spying charges this year.

Routine Background Check

A spokesman for the Acme Reporting Company, Mr. Jeffries's employer, said that Mr. Jeffries was a former F.B.I. employee who had been hired by Acme about six weeks ago as a "delivery person."

She said she did not know what position Mr. Jeffries had held with the F.B.I., when he left its employ, or whether he had been dismissed. The bureau said today he had worked from 1978 to 1980 as a clerk in its identification division, which handles fingerprints. The spokesman said there was indication that his resignation came at the bureau's request.

A statement issued in the name of Charles L. Richer, chairman of the board of Acme, said that the company was one of the largest court-reporting organizations in the United States and that "the regular background check performed before hiring did not turn up any problems" with Mr. Jeffries.

According to Mr. Giglia's testimony today, Mr. Jeffries had "access to reproduction equipment."

Representative Lee H. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat who is chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said today that he had been notified that Acme has transcribed closed hearings of the House Armed Services Committee.

Analysis of Procedures

Mr. Hamilton said that the Intelligence Committee is investigating ways to improve security procedures in the House. He said that several House committees hold secret hearings in which classified material is presented by various agencies. These sessions are taken down by stenographers, who then prepare printed records.

He said that several private companies transcribe secret hearings and added that the stenographers must receive security clearances.

It could not immediately be determined if Mr. Jeffries had been required to obtain a security clearance.

"We are now in the process of analyzing all of the procedures of the House from a security viewpoint," said Mr. Hamilton. "This is one of things we have been concerned about."

Representative Dave McCurdy, an Oklahoma Democrat who serves on both the Intelligence Committee and the Armed Services Committee, said that the texts of the military panel's closed hearings would include both testimony and reproductions of classified documents.

According to the F.B.I. statement, Mr. Jeffries tried to deliver classified documents to the office of the Soviet military attaché on Dec. 14. United States counterintelligence agents routinely monitor people who enter Soviet offices in this country. One Federal official suggested that he was working for the Soviet military intelligence agency. He said that Vitaly Yurchenko, the former official of the K.G.B., the Soviet state security agency, had not been involved in this case.

United States officials have said that Mr. Yurchenko, who returned to the Soviet Union after apparently defecting, had provided information which helped in the capture of others spying for Moscow.

William Webster, Director of the F.B.I., said in the statement that "we continue to have tremendous success with the interdiction of persons attempting to deliver our secrets to the hostile intelligence services."

Six days after his visit to the military attaché's office, Mr. Jeffries was contacted by an undercover agent who said he was a Soviet spy who had approval from Moscow to "continue dealing with Mr. Jeffries," according to Mr. Giglia of the F.B.I., who testified about the bureau's investigation of Mr. Jeffries.

He said Mr. Jeffries told the undercover agent that he "had access to a bag full of top secret and secret documents which were ripped up but could be put back together." He said he had already delivered 60 "sample pages" to Soviet officials and that "he anticpated being able to deliver documents on a monthly basis as they became available."

Mr. Giglia quoted Mr. Jeffries as saying he had three documents "under his control" which had not yet been ripped up. He offered to pick these up and deliver them to the undercover agent.

Mr. Giglia quoted an official of the Acme company as saying it keeps copies of its Top Secret and Secret documents in its safe. When they are no longer needed, they are ripped up by hand and discarded.

Neighbor Tells of Problems

Scottie Barrett, who lives in the same apartment building as the Jeffrieses in Northwest Washington, described herself as "best friends" with Mr. Jeffries, his wife and their three children. She said Mr. Jeffries recently completed a drug rehabilitation program. A pretrial report filed in Superior Court said Mr. Jeffries was convicted in 1983 of possession of heroin and received a suspended sentence, The Associated Press reported today.

Mrs. Barrett said Mr. Jeffries had recently run into financial difficulties, she said, and "always talked about money and getting back on the top."

She said that Mr. Jeffries and his wife, Naomi, recently had some marital disagreements over, among other things, the management of the family's money. Mrs. Barrett said that the family has two girls and a boy. The eldest child, a daughter is attending kindergarten, while the youngest, the son, is less than a year old, she said.

Since the end of the summer, she said, Mr. Jeffries said he had gotten a new job and he and his wife had started attending services at a local Jehovah's Witnesses congregation.

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